

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Activity in Gera and Merseburg 25X1

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED PREPARED 7 March 1955

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 2 February 1955, the Panzer Kaserne Tinz (8142) in Gera was occupied by about 500 to 600 troops. [REDACTED] epaulets with tank insignia. Units [REDACTED] groups and [REDACTED] practice on the range north of the autobahn. [REDACTED]

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2. During the period from 9 to 13 February 1955, the Reuss Kaserne (8141) in Gera still quartered the artillery unit of 1,800 to 2,000 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The following weapons were seen during the period of observation:

32 100 mm AT guns
 24 x 122-mm field howitzers
 16 x 152-mm gun howitzers
 8 light AA guns of undetermined caliber.

There was intensive training activity and vehicular traffic during the reported period. Soldiers daily practiced with 4 guns and each crew consisted of 15 soldiers. In addition, 4 guns towed by track-laying prime movers daily left for training in the area of Gera and Milbitz. Practice driving by track-laying prime movers was also conducted. [REDACTED]

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3. The Panzer Kaserne in Gera-Tinz was still occupied by 180 to 200 soldiers. Three T-34/85s were seen. Soldiers practiced driving and aiming with the tanks. Truck [REDACTED] drove from the kaserne to the kasernes in Zeitz. 1 [REDACTED]
4. Between 21 January and 6 February 1955, the occupation of the Flak Kaserne (8321) in Merseburg increased and amounted to approximately 3,000 soldiers. The troops wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and belonged to the following units:

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The old unit of about 2,000 men equipped with 122 mm field howitzers and 100 mm AT guns and 76 mm guns;

a new unit of about 1,000 men equipped with 152 mm gun howitzers and field guns of 100 to 122 mm.

In addition to the shipment which arrived on 20 January, from 6 to 10 trucks daily arrived at the installation. On 5 February 1955, 60 to 65 trucks, 4 152-mm gun howitzers, 7 field guns of 100 to 122 mm and 10 prime movers were lined up in the barracks area.

5. Prior to 16 February 1955, no changes occurred in the occupation of the Flak Kaserne. The total strength amounted to at least 2,500 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. During the period of observation, the kaserne was heavily guarded by additional VP patrols. The old unit [] was housed in the western section of the kaserne. The troops there were seen engaged in gun drill, firing with infantry weapons and field training. These exercises involved up to 200 men. Approximately 100 soldiers with gas masks practiced transmitting hand signals with red signals flags.

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The new unit was quartered in the eastern section of the kaserne. The soldiers engaged in gun drill and motor vehicle maintenance service. Building material arrived at this section. On 15 February, about 60 trucks, 10 YA-12 prime movers, 4 x 152-mm gun howitzers and 7 x 122-mm guns were parked in the open in front of this section.

[] The gun was distinguished from the gun howitzer in that the barrel was 1 to 2 meters longer and was not provided with a muzzle brake.

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1. [] Comment. The information confirms the [] tank training unit of the Eighth Gds Army in the kaserne in Gera-Tinz.
2. [] Comment. The 308th Arty Brig/XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps [] is confirmed in the Reuss Kaserne.
3. [] Comment. [] the 76th Arty Brig/XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps received personnel and, possibly, also guns on 20 January.

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